AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A processor-implemented method of managing a persistent federated folder within a federated content management system that includes a plurality of heterogeneous ~~local~~ federated datastores, the method comprising:

searching, from a local datastore, the plurality of heterogeneous federated datastores;

creating the persistent federated folder on ~~a~~ the local federated datastore within the federated content management system;

wherein the persistent federated folder ~~has the ability to~~collectively saves ~~a~~ federated search results from each of the respective heterogeneous federated datastores, to act as a container in a workflow process, and to act as a container for a set of objects with similar characteristics, and is further stored in a non-transient manner to permit data stored in the persistent federated folder to be queried with a federated query;

mapping the persistent federated folder includes a virtual entity mapped to a plurality of entities in the local federated datastores;

updating the persistent federated folder by modifying a members list, and updating attributes of the persistent federated folder; and

selectively deleting the persistent federated folder.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the members list comprises adding at least one new member.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the members list comprises removing at least one member.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting items in the plurality of entities as a result of a search.

5. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising a user selecting items in the plurality of entities.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising an application selecting items in the plurality of entities.

7. (original): The method of claim 4, further comprising saving a persistent identifier reference in the persistent federated folder for each of the items in the entities selected as a result of the search.

8. (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising saving a persistent identifier reference in the persistent federated folder for each of the items in the entities selected by the user.

9. (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising saving a persistent identifier reference in the persistent federated folder for each of the items in the entities selected by the application.

10. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein deleting the persistent federated folder does not delete items referenced in the persistent federated folder.

11. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder contains at least one persistent federated folder.

12. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from entities originating from heterogeneous datastores.

13. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from an entity of the persistent federated folder.

14. (original): The method in claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder integrates seamlessly within the federated content management system allowing a federated query to operate transparently with respect to a client.

15. (original): The method in claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder system limits access rights of users according to users' general privileges.

16. (original): The method in claim 1, further comprising providing administrative support for creating, mapping, and administering the persistent federated folder.

17. (currently amended): A computer program product having instruction codes that are stored on a computer usable medium, for managing a persistent federated folder within a federated content management system that includes a plurality of ~~local~~ heterogeneous federated datastores, the computer program product comprising:

a first set of instruction codes for searching, from a local federated datastore, the plurality of heterogeneous federated datastores;

a ~~first~~ second set of instruction codes for creating the persistent federated folder on ~~a~~ the local federated datastore within the federated content management system;

wherein the persistent federated folder ~~has the ability to~~collectively saves ~~a~~ federated search results from each of the respective heterogeneous federated datastores, to act as a container in a workflow process, and to act as a container for a set of objects with similar characteristics, and is further stored in a non-transient manner to permit data stored in the persistent federated folder to be queried with a federated query;

a ~~second~~ third set of instruction codes for mapping the persistent federated folder includes a virtual entity mapped to a plurality of entities in the local federated datastores;

a ~~third~~ fourth set of instruction codes for updating the persistent federated folder by modifying a members list, and updating attributes of the persistent federated folder; and

a ~~fourth~~ fifth set of instruction codes for selectively deleting the persistent federated folder.

18. (original): The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the third set of instruction codes modifies the members list by adding at least one new member.

19. (original): The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the third set of instruction codes modifies the members list by removing at least one member.

20. (original): The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the fourth set of instruction codes does not delete items referenced in the persistent federated folder.

21. (original): The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from entities originating from heterogeneous datastores.

22. (original): The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from an entity of the persistent federated folder.

23. (original): The computer program product in claim 17, wherein the persistent federated folder system limits access rights of users according to users' general privileges.

24. (currently amended): A processor-implemented system for managing a persistent federated folder within a federated content management system that includes a plurality of heterogeneous ~~local~~ federated datastores, the system comprising:

means for searching, from a local datastore, the plurality heterogeneous federated datastores;

means for creating the persistent federated folder on ~~a~~ the local federated datastore within the federated content management system;

wherein the persistent federated folder ~~has the ability to~~collective saves ~~a~~ federated search results from each of the respective heterogeneous federated datastores, to act as a container in a workflow process, and to act as a container for a set of objects with similar characteristics, and is further stored in a non-transient manner to permit data stored in the persistent federated folder to be queried with a federated query;

means for mapping the persistent federated folder includes a virtual entity mapped to a plurality of entities in the local federated datastores;

means for updating the persistent federated folder by modifying a members list, and updating attributes of the persistent federated folder; and

means for selectively deleting the persistent federated folder.

25. (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the means for updating modifies the members list by adding at least one new member.

26. (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the means for updating modifies the members list by removing at least one member.

27. (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the means for deleting does not delete items referenced in the persistent federated folder.

28. (original): The system of claim 24, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from entities originating from heterogeneous datastores.

29-30. (canceled).

31. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the federated folder is defined using a query expression executable in the federated datastore.

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein the query expression is executed by the federated datastore to materialize the content of the federated folder.